



KENTUCKY YOUTH FIRST

Why this is needed?

There is a need in the Commonwealth to increase access to adolescent substance abuse and co-occurring treatment; increase the number of clinicians with identifiable adolescent-specific skills; and increase sensitivity to serving the diverse cultures from Eastern Kentucky and in the inner city areas of Central Kentucky

Our State and Local Core

Partners:

- State Interagency Council: Departments of Education, Mental Health/Mental Retardation Services, Community Based Services, Public Health, Medicaid Services and Juvenile Justice; Family Resource and Youth Service Centers; Administrative Office of the Courts; Family Representative
- Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children
- Regional Mental Health/Mental Retardation Boards
- Kentucky Adolescent Substance Abuse Consortium
- Reclaiming Futures in the Mountains of Kentucky
- Louisville Adolescent Network for Substance Abuse Treatment
- Kentuckians Encouraging Youth to Succeed (KEYS)
- University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research

For More Information Contact:

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Who We Are

Kentucky Youth First, a \$1.2 million grant received by the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) and the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services through the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) that will help Kentucky's infrastructure build a capacity to provide effective, accessible and affordable substance abuse and co-occurring treatment for youth and their families.

What We're Doing

In order to build a stronger infrastructure the Kentucky Youth First staff is identifying, linking and coordinating with other State and National adolescent service systems in order to:

- Improve access, capacity and quality of integrated screening, assessment, and interventions that are based on evidence.
- Provide training opportunities, consultation and credentialing of staff in order to help them identify their current practices that are supported by research and expand their practice through new interventions effective in working with youth and families.
- Disseminate research, data information and lessons learned through other grants to inform programs and practices for adolescents with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders
- Promote and strengthen resources and supports for family members and treatment providers through new and existing means
- Identify and coordinate funding for adolescent substance abuse/co-occurring treatment.